

MASON'S  
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COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

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# MASON'S

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#### AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*

At the meeting of the American Philosophical Society, held February 19, 1796, the proceedings were diversified by a singular incident, which we find thus recorded in the minutes:

“Mr. Peale presented to the Society a young son of four months and four days old, being the first child born in the Philosophical Hall, and requested the Society would give him a name. On which, the Society unanimously agreed that, after the name of the chief founder and late President of the Society, he should be named Franklin.” Tradition adds that the infant was thereupon so named in the President's chair, given to the Society by Benjamin Franklin.

This child, in a peculiar sense the child of the Society, was Franklin Peale, our late associate, to whose memory I now, honored by your choice, seek to render a feeble tribute.

The father of Franklin Peale was Charles Wilson Peale, a man of various gifts, eminent as a painter and as the founder of the once noted Philadelphia Museum. To him the country owes an extensive series of portraits of the most distinguished men of our revolutionary and post-revolutionary era. In the course of his profession, having been called on to make drawings of bones of the mammoth, his attention became attracted to natural history, and he began the accumulation of objects illustrating that department of science. From very small beginnings, Wilson Peale, by energy, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, above all praise succeeded in building up the Museum referred to, which Philadelphians of a past generation recall as one of the most interesting and useful institutions of our city. He was a member of our Society—which was naturally much interested in the success of his work—whence it happened that, while the Museum was still in its early stage of growth, in the year 1794, it was located in our building, the same which we now occupy; and here, in the northwest room, second story, now known as the Librarian's room, Franklin Peale was born on the 15th day of October, 1795. His mother was Elizabeth De Peyster, second wife of Charles Wilson Peale. She died while he was quite young, but his childhood and



youth were tenderly cared for by a stepmother, Wilson Peale's third wife, a member of the Society of Friends.

The father's views on the subject of education were peculiar. The children were not directed according to any systematic routine, but left much to their own choice in their course of study. They were guided according to a fancied ability, and means were furnished (but not always the teachers) to stimulate them to the acquisition of the knowledge towards which their minds seemed naturally bent. Books, tools, canvas and pencils, besides the opportunities to see what had been done by others, he thought sufficient, provided there was disposition to learn; otherwise he considered any attempt to push them forward as but lost time. If such a plan of education seems open to criticism, it may, perhaps, be justified by the result, which has furnished to us, in the Peale family, Rembrandt, the artist; Franklin, the mechanician; and Titian, the naturalist.

The instruction received by Mr. Peale seems, therefore, to have been quite irregular. He had no systematic course of training, either in school or college. He went first to a country school in Bucks county, was a short time at the University of Pennsylvania, and finished his education at the Academy, in Germantown, where the family then resided.

(To be continued.)

#### SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

NEW SERIES. No. 3.

"Numismatic Punning."

The fraternity of numismatists includes a number of witty individuals who occasionally relieve the monotony of the coin trade by the perpetration of jokes, puns and anecdotes, which would, if collected, form an amusing volume. Upon a recent occasion, a few choice spirits addicted to "Hoodisms" (a new word) were discussing in our coin store the merits of the Packer collection of coins, occasionally indulging in a quiet criticism on the Packer catalogue and its peculiar terms for the condition of coins. All at once the classical countenance of Mr. S. assumed a comico-quizzical look, and the following little dialogue ensued:

S.—"Gentlemen, open your catalogues at page 46 (COLONIAL PIECES). About midway on the page we have the *Latin-anglo* title: AUCTORI CONNECTICUT. What order do you take upon that?"

R.—"Oh! that's merely a typographical error. We all know what it means."

S.—"Wonder if Mr. Cogan would object if *i cut* the four last letters from the word *Connecticut*?"

M.—"I should think not, for then we would have the title correct to a T."

S.—"Hold, gentlemen; if you *cut* out the *t*, I do not see how you can make it *connect*."

*M.*—"But if you do not cut out the *i* you can see the connection."

*R.*—"How if the *t* and *i* were both cut out?"

*M.*—"That would never do, for when the *tie* is destroyed you cannot connect the cut."

*H.*—"Come, come, gents, have done with this, or you will each be indited for treason in your puerile efforts to curtail a good New England State, and thus break up the Union."

(*To be continued.*)

## GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

### GREEK CIVIC COINS.

*Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.*

(*Concluded.*)

#### CNIDUS (CARIA.)

KN, head of Venus, to the right.

*Rev.*—The forepart of a lion crouching, to the right.—AR.

#### HALICARNASSUS.

Head of Pallas, to the right.

*Rev.*—ΑΛΙ.ΟΙΛ, an owl, full-faced.

Many have a trident and the flower of the lotus.

#### MYNDUS.

Laureated head of Jupiter, to the right.

*Rev.*—ΜΥΝΛ, or ΜΥΝ, an owl.

Or a vine stalk, with a bunch of grapes.

#### ORTHOSIA.

Crowned head of Bacchus, to right.

*Rev.*—ΘΑΕ, a panther regardant, running to the right.

#### COS INSULA.

Laureated head of Esculapius, to the right.

*Rev.*—ΚΙΝ. ΝΙΚΜΗ, a serpent entwined around the staff.

#### RHODES.

Full-faced head of the sun.

*Rev.*—ΡΟΙΟΝ, a rose in an indented square.—AR.

Some have the lotus flower, many a bee, with monograms.

#### ACRASSUS (LYDIA.)

Female head.

*Rev.*—The Ephesian Diana.

#### CHALCIS.

Head of Janus.

*Rev.*—ΧΑΛ, in a laurel garland.

#### GAZA (JUDEA.)

Male head, laureated, to the right.

*Rev.*—ΓΑΖΑ.ΑΖΕ, two figures in a temple, the one holding a spear, the other an ear of corn.



## THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst-Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Onyx is one variety of the species of mineral substance called calcedony, and is the stone of which those exquisite artistic products, the antique Cameos, were made, and although cheaper substances, and more easily to be wrought upon, are used chiefly at the present day for the production of these works of Art, the Onyx is still extensively employed. The peculiarity which fits it for this branch of Art is its composition of different colored strata, of which the artists takes advantage in fashioning figures in relief on and out of the stone. If there are two strata, a figure, or a series of them, is engraved out of the one, and the rest cut away until the other stratum appears as a ground for the subject engraved. If there are three strata, two figures may be engraved, the one most prominent and the back ground being of the same color—the intermediate one being of a different hue.

The colors of the different layers of the Onyx are black (or dark) and white.

The principal supply of this stone now comes from Oberstein, in Prussian Saxony, though some are furnished both by the East Indies and Brazil.

As good specimens of these stones are scarce, it has become common even in Saxony to stain in imitation of it common uncolored specimens of calcedony. This mineral in all its variety consists of strata of different degrees of density, though oftener all of the same color—a nebulous milky gray. It will absorb fluids in the direction of the strata, which, on account of the diversity of their structure, will, though all be gray, if the whole stone be dyed with one material, present tints widely marked in hue. This is a business extensively carried on at the towns of Oberstein and Idar.

The Onyx itself is treated also chemically at these places, to increase the contrast between its white and dark layers. This is effected principally by sulphuric acid.

These imitations, as well as the Onyx itself, are very hard and expensive to engrave. A cheaper and softer material was, therefore, sought and found in *shells*, and of this substance are made the greater proportion of Cameos we now meet with. Among the shells fitted for the purpose is the "Bull's Mouth," from Ceylon and Madagascar, having a red inner coat; the "Black Hemlet," from Jamaica, Nassau, and New Providence, having a blackish inner coat; and the "Queen Conch," having a pink coat. The "Black Helmet" is the largest, a single shell often furnishing two or three Cameos of the size usually adopted for breastpins. All these shells have three several layers, deposited successively by the secretion of the mollusc, white forming

its calcareous domicil. The substance was introduced in the manufacture of Cameos in Sicily only about fifty years ago. It was restricted to that island and Italian peninsula for about twenty years, but an emigrant Italian then commencing the manufacture in Paris, that city has since been the head quarters of the Art.

(*To be continued.*)

## THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

(*Continued.*)

Treasurer Spinner says: "There is nothing in my department that I am not willing the people should know all about, unless it is something under seal turned over to me for safe keeping by the War Department. Some things are here subject to an order of the Secretary of War. I do not know myself what is in the vault. I think the Secretary had better send some one, and, with others of this office, a thorough understanding can be had, and the authorities will know what is best to do in the matter.

One gloomy afternoon the work of investigation began. The first object that saw the light of day was a box as elfish as the one dragged from the sea by the fisherman, but, instead of being made of copper and fastened with the seal of the great Solomon, it was bound with red tape and bore the waxen seal of some deceased Secretary of the Treasury. When opened, it emitted an odor of dead roses. The first article lifted from the box was a heavy square bottle, which contained the attar of roses. A considerable quantity of the precious fluid had made its escape, but quite enough remained to perfume the city if this shall be considered necessary after the carnival has passed away. There was no paper to indicate to whom this attar of roses belonged. Tradition says that some East Indian prince sent it to Martin Van Buren; that it had once been deposited at the Patent Office, and afterwards sent to the Treasury, in the year 1848. The next bottle lifted from the paper wrappings contained pearls. These were remarkably fine on account of shape, size and purity of color. Two of these pearls were the largest the writer has ever seen. They were oblong in shape, and these two must have given color to the fancy of "pearls as large as pigeon eggs." As there was no way of counting these jewels, it was judged there might have been one hundred and fifty all together. The next article was a vial containing diamonds. None of these were large, but they were very clear and perfect in shape. It seemed as if they must have once been a part of some royal necklace which had been stolen. As is usually the case in calamities of this kind, the detectives only recover the smaller stones. There might have been a thimbleful of diamonds.

Thieves evidently had been at work with the treasure, for the next article brought forth was the golden lining of a snuff box, but the jewelled cover and fragrant snuff were missing. Next came a gold ornament which had once held together a pearl necklace. The



silken string and tassel attached to it showed its East Indian origin. This, it appears, was the article left to show that some President or officer of the Government had been presented with a pearl necklace. It had been placed on exhibition somewhere, and thieves made away with it; but, in order to secure what was recovered beyond all chances of future escape, the strings and gold fastening were laid in this vault.

(*To be continued.*)

#### DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

*To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various  
Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing  
Coins.*

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(*Continued.*)

In the modern part no series can be formed of copper that will go above two centuries; but sequences of gold and of silver may be arranged of all the different empires, kingdoms and states, so far as their several coinages will allow. Those of England and France will be the most perfect. Modern silver is commonly arranged in three sequences: the dollar size, the shilling size, and the groat size. The medals of each modern country ought, of course, to be separated, though it is best to arrange each set in chronological order, let their size or metal be what they will. It may be remarked here that our modern medals, of the size of a tea saucer, are only so many monuments of Gothicism. The ancient medallions are almost universally but little larger than a crown piece, though three or four of them may extend to two inches in diameter, but very many modern medals to four inches and more. A large medal always declares an ignorant prince or an ignorant artist. Into the size of a crown piece the ancient threw more miracles in this way than will ever appear on these monstrous productions; but, as Zeuxis said to his scholar, who had daubed a paltry design with florid colors, "If thou hast not made it beautiful, thou hast made it rich," so it may be said to those enormous artists, with this addition, that a pair of scales gives the most just estimate of their works.

The formation of a cabinet of the second class next demands our attentions. The directions for the former will likewise apply to this so far as it is meant to go. But as the smaller cabinet only includes a few complete sequences, either of ancient or modern coins, some more particular instructions may be given. If, for instance, the collector means to form a series of the Roman large brass, he will find the coins of four or five emperors so scarce as not to be attainable in that series, even at any price. He must, of necessity, supply their places with the middle brass, as is allowed with regard to Otho even in the best cabinets, there not being above three coins of that emperor, in large brass, known in the world; whereas of the middle brass, two



or three hundred may exist. If this is allowed in one instance, why not in others? Why may not Tiberius or Pertinax appear in the brass, as well as Otho? I confess I can see no reason for the middle collector putting himself to a needless expense which might be laid out in articles of more importance to his cabinet, merely that a series may receive a finical completion, which is of no necessity but in the eyes of visionaries. This will appear the more just when we consider that it is not by the size of the coin only that medalists, even the most rigid in the superstition of their fantastic science, decide whether it belongs to the first or second brass, but by that of the head which it bears.

*(To be continued.)*

## ENGLISH GOLD COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print]

### HENRY III.

This king was the first English monarch who coined gold. The only denomination is the penny, on the obverse of which the king is represented in a chair of state, with the globe and sceptre. The reverse is a double cross, like that on the silver pennies after his thirty-second year, but with a rose in each quarter between the three pellets; legend, the moneyer's name. They are of the very first rarity.

### EDWARD III.

Edward III coined florins, half florins and quarter florins in his eighteenth year. The first bore two leopards on the obverse; the second, one leopard, and the last a helmet. The two former have never been discovered, this first coinage having been almost immediately recalled. The quarter florin is the rarest English gold coin at present known, excepting the gold penny of Henry III. In the same year, Edward coined nobles, halves and quarters, the former weighing about 136 grains and all the others in proportion. In the twentieth year of his reign, another coinage of nobles was issued, the noble being reduced to 128 grains. In his twenty-seventh year, a further coinage took place, when the noble suffered a reduction of eight grains, and weighed only 120. These last are common, but the nobles of the first two coinages and their parts are very rare. They may be distinguished from the latter by the word Aqv., which does not occur on the gold coins of Edward III until after the twenty-sixth year of his reign. The nobles have on their obverse the king in a ship, crowned, and in armor, with a sword and shield, the latter bearing the arms of England and France quarterly.

### RICHARD II.

The noble, half noble and quarter weigh the same as the last of Edward III. They are all rare, but especially the half noble.

### HENRY IV.

The pieces of the first coinage of this king, which consisted of the noble (weighing 108 grains), and its parts, are exceedingly rare.

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The others, which cannot be distinguished from those of Henry V and Henry VI, are common.

### HENRY VI.

The angel of this king is scarce, and the half angel is extremely rare. The angel bears the figure of St. Michael trampling on the dragon.

### EDWARD IV.

The only rare gold coin of Edward IV is the angelet or half angel. The angel should weigh 80 grains.

### RICHARD III.

The angel of this king is rare, and the half angel particularly so.

### HENRY VII.

The ryal is very rare, as is also the double sovereign. The sovereign is rare, but the angel and half angel are common.

### HENRY VIII.

The only rare coins of this monarch are the George noble (71 grains), having the figure of St. George on horseback, and the ryal. The latter is of the first rarity.

### EDWARD VI.

The common gold coins of this king are the half sovereign of his first coinage, the sovereign of his second coinage, and the half sovereign with the head crowned. The others are rare.

### MARY.

The sovereign common, the angel scarce, the half angel and the ryal very rare.

### ELIZABETH.

All the gold coins of Elizabeth are common, except the ryal, which is very scarce.

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## HOW NUMISMATICS MAY BE POPULARIZED.

We have pleasure in recording how the science of numismatics has recently been made popular in Montreal, and we now commend the process to its devotees in other localities. First in chronological order, at a bazaar held in behalf of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, not the least attractive portion of the venture was the exhibition of a very choice collection of coins and medals, the property of James Ferrier, Esq.; and although, as Mr. Ferrier informed those interested in them, the specimens were hastily taken at random from his cabinet without any attempt at order (the idea having been suggested only at the last moment), nevertheless, from the rarity of many of the pieces shown, they were a source of great pleasure and secured the attention of many who probably never thought of numismatics before.

Next, at a conversazione held in connection with the Young Men's Association of Trinity Church, Montreal, Mr. H. Mott, President of the Numismatic Society of that city, exhibited a very extensive collection of coins and medals, which were the theme of general admiration. The exhibition, in addition to many interesting medals of the



Reformers, Luther, Knox, Calvin, Wickliffe, etc., included the rare silver one in commemoration of the acquittal of the seven bishops, and was *unique* in this particular—that Mr. Mott had gathered together a complete set of the Educational Medals of the Dominion of Canada.

At a subsequent meeting of the same association, a lecture was given by Mr. Mott on "The Coins of the Bible," the value of the essay being enhanced by the exhibition of a number of the pieces referred to, amongst which were the "Tribute Money," a "Judæa Capta," pieces of Herod, etc. We take this opportunity of commending these efforts as a practical method of popularizing numismatics, and showing how many a pleasant and profitable hour may be spent in the pursuit of the study.

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

CANADA.

16. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—A cask, inscribed, "UPPER CANADA;" below, "1821 COMMERCIAL CHANGE."

17. C. Obv.—Justice standing with sword and scales. "LESSLIE & SONS, TORONTO AND DUNDASS 1822." Rev.—A plow; above it, "TOKEN;" below it, "2D CURRENCY." "PROSPERITY TO OANADA, LA PRUDENCE ET LA CANDEUR." Rare.

18. C. Obv.—Same as No. 17. "LESSLIE & SONS, YORK KINGSTON & DUNDAS." Rev.—A plow with one bar across the handles; above it, "TOKEN;" below, "HALF PENNY." Same inscription as No. 17. There are several varieties of this half penny token, the difference consisting in the shape of the plow, and some having two bars across the handles. No corresponding penny has yet been met with.

19. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—A plow; "TO FACILITATE TRADE 1823." Edge milled.

20. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—Same as No. 19.

21. C. Obv.—"CANADA 1830." Rev.—"HALF PENNY," in two lines.

22. C. Obv.—Bust of George IV, to the left, laureated and draped. "PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA." Rev.—Britannia, as on English coinage of 1806. "HALF PENNY TOKEN 1832." Edge engraved.

23. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 19, dated "1833."

24. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—Same as No. 23.

25. Brass. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop almost touching the apex of last letter in "Canada." Rev.—An anvil, with hammer and tongs, between a scythe blade and a vice; above it, two spades crossed; below, "1833."

26. C. Obv.—A *habitant* or French Canadian farmer standing

with a whip in his right hand and the left extended. "PROVINCE DU BAS CANADA DEUX SOUS." Rev.—Arms of the City of Montreal. "BANK TOKEN ONE PENNY 1837." In the scroll preceding from both sides of the garter in arms, in sunk letters, "BANK OF MONTREAL."

27. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. In scroll, "CITY BANK."

28. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. In scroll, "BANQUE DU PEUPLE."

29. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. "QUEBEC BANK."  
(*To be continued.*)

#### SALE OF THE PACKER COIN CABINET.

The late Ex-Governor Packer's large collection of coins was disposed of, by public auction, in New York, February 27 and the four succeeding days, to the satisfaction, no doubt, of buyers and the executors of the Packer estate. The total receipts reached five thousand and eight hundred dollars in round numbers. This sale has been the theme of conversation among numismatists for many weeks. When the hour arrived for the commencement of the sale, the auction room was fairly filled with many prominent collectors and dealers—all anxious to know what prices would prevail for choice and rare pieces. The choice coin in the American series, in condition and rarity, was the Washington half dollar, in copper, which was purchased by Mason & Co. for \$85. The silver piece of same date and description, but not in fine condition, was sold, to the same party, for \$40.

The fine cents realised good prices. 1793 cent, fine, brought \$18; 1795 cent, uncirculated, \$30; 1796 cent, uncirculated, fillet head variety, \$26; 1803 cent, bright and uncirculated, \$18; 1804 cent, fine, \$24 75; 1808 cent, very fine, \$34; 1809 cent, uncirculated, \$25; 1793 half cent, fine, \$15; 1795 half cent, fine, thick die, \$20; 1831 proof half cent, \$10 75; 1836 proof half cent, \$10; 1852 proof half cent, \$7. The ancient coins were, by far, the most interesting pieces of the whole cabinet, and commanded good prices. The spirited competition over the Greek coins exhibited additional interest in these hitherto (in America) neglected but interesting pieces; and the high prices realised are convincing proofs that collectors have entered the study of the ancients and their coinage with commendable spirit, resolved to compete with the nations of the old world in their historical knowledge of the ancient Greek potentates and contemporaneous history. The tetradrachms sold from \$1 75 to \$15 50. We should think \$6 about the average of the "Greek Coins of Princes," numbering 32 lots. The Greek autonomous coins sustained about the same average as their predecessors. Greek drachms averaged about \$2 50 each. Silver rupees, etc., of India, \$2 each. Greek copper coins about 75 cents each. The Roman imperial and family coins sold low; also, the denarii of the imperial series.



Modern silver and copper coins of Europe sold low—in many cases at par value. Choice crowns and other silver pieces of rarity, in fine condition, realised handsome prices.

The attendance of buyers and spectators was quite good during the whole sale; but a lack of interest and a falling off of values occurred on the fifth day, much to the joy of certain dealers, who snapped at bargains with keen appetites for the little margin which such bargains afforded. This sale, like all others, had its little episode, and, this time, rather a novel one. On the fifth and last night of sale, Mr. Merwin, the talented and voluble auctioneer, was a little belated and did not arrive until a few minutes after the appointed time of sale. In this emergency, while the buyers were in their seats, and our venerable and respected friend, Mr. Cogan, behind the counter, book in hand, and behind those spectacles which give to him, in conjunction with his silvery hairs, the aspect of some right reverend just on the point of opening a sermon—we say, in this fix, it occurred to one of the audience to nominate Mr. Cogan auctioneer *pro tem.*, which position was no sooner proposed than accepted by our numismatic brother dealer, who, accepting the situation with remarkable good humor, proceeded to open the sale by making one of his characteristic speeches, interrupted occasionally by some humorous remarks, such as: "Have you taken out a license?" and other casual observations. Mr. Cogan, nothing daunted, led off with a bronze medal of Commodore Decatur. "How much for Decatur?" Fifty cents was the bid, and the good-natured auctioneer proceeded through all the various fractions that bidders delight in, such as  $52\frac{1}{2}$ , 55,  $57\frac{1}{2}$ , 60, \$1  $02\frac{1}{2}$  and so on up to \$1 50, when Mr. Cogan had exhausted the vocabulary of the salesman, knocked down the medal to Captain Deffendorf for \$1 50, and retired to make room for Mr. Merwin, who had entered the room and, with his partner, Mr. Bangs, was enjoying the little episode with evident relish, while the audience were fairly convulsed with the novel scene.

#### DOLOROUS.

Mrs. Dollar, of Detroit, let a skillet drop on the head of a Miss Griffin, and she will spend a "quarter" in the workhouse. The judge said he thought it safer if she be *cent.*—*N. Y. Democrat.*

[Where was her better half, Dollar, that he should let this *change* be made in his household? It is evident he does not care a d—ime what becomes of his *Dollar.*—Ed.]

#### UNIQUE FEUCHTWANGER COIN.

We have examined a Feuchtwanger three cent piece, 1837, eagle on a rock, struck in copper. This piece is in possession of L. G. Parmelee, of Boston, and is the only one we ever saw or heard of in copper. Can any of our readers give the history of the Feuchtwanger pieces, or throw light upon the origin of the copper three cent piece?

## A SCOTTISH IDEA OF GEOLOGY.

Geology is better understood than formerly, but there have been amusing incidents of the misapprehension of ignorant people about the work of geologists. A peasant, in England, who had been watching Professor Sedgwick break up rocks with his mallet, said to his companion, pityingly, "Poor man! a little soft here!" touching the head. But the following incident of Scotland, told by Dr. McLeod, is more amusing:

There is one science, the value of which it is very difficult to make a Highlander comprehend, and that is mineralogy. He connects botany with the art of healing; astronomy with guidance from the stars, or navigation; chemistry with dying, brewing, etc.; but "chopping bits off the rock," as he calls it, this has always been a mystery.

A shepherd, while smoking his pipe at a small Highland inn, was communicating to another in Gaelic his experience of "mad Englishmen," as he called them.

"There was one," said the narrator, "who gave me his bag to carry to the inn by a short cut across the hills, while he walked by another road. I was wondering to myself why it was so dreadfully heavy, and when I got out of his sight I was determined to see what there was in it. I opened it, and what do you think was in it? But I need not ask you to guess, for you would never find out. It was stones."

"Stones!" exclaimed his companion, opening his eyes; "stones! Well, well, that beats all I ever knew or heard of them! And did you carry it?"

"Carry it! Do you think I was mad as himself? No; I emptied them all out, but I filled the bag again from the cairn near the house, and gave good measure for his money!"

## THE GOLD DARIC.

A year ago, the editor of the *New York Numismatic Journal* enthusiastically writes: "We have never seen a Daric. Is there such a thing to be seen in this Western Hemisphere? For edification, for intellectual stimulus, we would rather own a genuine Daric than any coin on the American catalogue. \* \* \* But, we repeat, we have not one and we know not of any man who has one."

Well, yes, such a thing has been seen in this Western Hemisphere. Has the editor ever heard of a place called Philadelphia? For there are several things to be found there which the literati of Gotham (will it be believed?) have *never* seen. For instance: Within the limited circle of our knowledge there are four gold staters of Darius Hystaspes, in the city of Philadelphia.

## NUMISMATIC BURGLARY.

The store of A. C. Kline, in this city, was feloniously entered on the 2d of February, and robbed of about six hundred dollars' worth of silver and copper coins and medals. No clue to the burglars.



REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

KING.—Sent you the Packer catalogues, and will price the same for \$2.

A. N.—If you expect to complete a set of the different colonial coppers of Connecticut and New Jersey, you will have a happy time in accomplishing the undertaking. New varieties are continually discovered. The rubbing you send us is taken from the *Pluribs* type.

P. R. L.—Ex. Gov. Packer was a devoted disciple of the numismatic fraternity; yet his collection, as a whole, is quite indifferent, all things considered. A correspondent writes us in reference to the late Mr. Packer:

"He did not go almost mad over a fine piece. He cared only for the intellectual interest in collecting. If there was a coin in a catalogue that he did not have, he would buy it almost entirely irrespective of price or condition. He bought large quantities of common stuff to obtain varieties. He had a very poor opinion of those who gave fifty or one hundred and fifty dollars for a cent, or seven hundred and fifty dollars for an 1804 dollar, although, I presume, he could have afforded it as well as most. He was one of the few who thoroughly enjoyed the science of numismatics. He would spend whole days in finding out the history of a coin; and once, not long ago, he spent fourteen days in tracing the history of two pieces."

In reply, we would simply remark that the collectors who have the good fortune to obtain pieces at such an outlay of money as described would probably have a poor opinion of a party, in possession of a large fortune and ample facilities, who devoted years to the accumulation of common pieces, in ordinary condition, and wasted precious time in the study of such a collection for self amusement only. We can only express surprise and wonder at the character of the Packer cabinet, knowing full well that the owner possessed unusual intelligence and unlimited means to make almost perfect any series of the coins of his country he desired. The American silver coins, with here and there an exception, were collected, apparently, at random, without regard to rarity or condition, and so with the American copper series; while his foreign coins and medals present nothing unusual, as a series, in the way of rare or fine pieces. The Fewsmith cabinet was far superior to it, although lacking in quantity as compared to the Packer cabinet.

R. KNIGHT, Westfield.—Subscription received. We hope to present, in this volume, full details of the construction and cost of cabinets for coins and medals. The largest medal in bronze issued by the United States Mint is the medal of Grant, size 68. We have this medal in white metal, believed to be *unique*, price, \$20.

J. B. C., Providence —\$1 50 received for subscription. Also received subscriptions from A. K. S., Lancaster; T. C. K., Newbury; R. W. Mc.L., Montreal; S. S. R., Menasha, Wis.; A. B. E., Burlington, N. J.; E. B. T., Watkins, N. Y.; W. H. P., Scranton; G. R. P., South Gardner; W. T. H., St. Louis; D. R. Jr., Charleston, S. C. Others answered and acknowledged by mail.

A. S. F., Columbus.—\$1 50 received for subscription. Send on the article by all means.

Wm. C., Springfield, Mass.—Two more names added to your list of subscribers, on same terms as original club.

J. M. D., Lafayette.—All square to date, Feb. 20.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

MALDEN, N. Y., February 20, 1871.

SIRS.—Enclosed you will find \$1 50 for another subscription from March, 1871, to March, 1872. I am getting up a collection of United States cents, and I must say that your magazine has helped me greatly. I would recommend it to all dealers in coins, as it is both useful and full of information to all. I give you my best wishes that it may prosper and its circulation increase to your highest expectations.

Yours, etc.,

ALEXANDER VALK.

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DEFUNCT.

The firm of F. T. & Co., stamp dealers, of Boston, we learn from various sources, has "gone where the woodbine twineth," or, in other words, "gone up!" Our sympathies are enlisted with the mourning creditors to the amount of two dollars. To the foreign creditors of F. T. & Co., we would say make a *note* of it.

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THE PACKER COIN SALE.

In order to give a full report of this sale, we were compelled to delay the publication of this number until the 8th inst.

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NEW COINAGE.

The silver dollar for 1871 has been issued from the Carson City Mint, Nevada. The only difference noticed in comparison with the dollar issued from the Philadelphia Mint are the letters "C. C." in exergue on reverse.

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OWLS.

A little pleasantry was relished in ancient times as well as by the present generation. Apropos: there is an anecdote extant of a rich Athenian miser who had swarms of owls roosting in his garret—the owl, being the emblem of Athens, is represented on its money, which the miser had concealed in the upper story of the domicile—and experienced delight in calling in strangers to see his owls, as Athenian coins were termed.

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PROSPECTIVE COIN SALE.

A sale of ancient and modern coins will take place, in New York, on the 3d of April. Catalogues will be mailed to all our patrons.

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PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

Small coin sales take place in this city fortnightly.



## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

TASMANIA.—Some considerable time has elapsed since the emission of any novelty from this colony. The type with bust of Victoria has been chosen for certain values of a new set. The appellation Van Diemen's Land, hitherto seen on the three lower values, seems to be rendered obsolete; the new-comers, and the unaltered sixpence and and shilling stamps, bearing an uniform name. In addition to these five former denominations, a hitherto unemployed value is added, the tenpenny being no longer a myth. Colors are as follows:

1 penny, pink.	4 pence, blue.
2 pence, green.	10 pence, black.

LEVANT STEAM COMPANY.—M. Moens announces a specimen of the blue adhesive of this company, having the eagle and vessel on a white ground, not on a red fretwork as usual.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Some acute observers have discovered that the halfpenny adhesives are numbered; a very minute figure will be found exactly opposite the fractional line on the left hand, and in the same position with regard to the centre of the numerator on the right side.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—Two additional values in the same type have been issued for these provinces. The whole set is employed, not only in the two annexations, but wherever the Prussian postal arrangements predominate. We have received postmarked specimens from Champagne.

5 centimes, light and dark green.	25 centimes, brown.
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EGYPT.—M. Moens chronicles the 1 piastre pin-perforated.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—One of the lately-described Newfoundland supplementary adhesives is out, similar in design to the Canada Bill stamps. Value excepted, it would equally serve for 6 cents, which was quoted as being carmine, but is really lake-pink.

FRANCE.—The lithographed current series of the republican type is completed by the issue of 5 centimes, pale and yellow green; the 30 c., in two shades of brown, and the 40 c., orange and vermillion. These three values, and the 10 c., 20 c. and 80 c., are close copies of the originals; the 1 c., 2 c. and 4 c., only, having the numerals conspicuously prominent. The newly prepared plates appear to be already much worn, some individuals being most indistinctly impressed.

PORTUGAL.—A new type has been chosen for another set of Portuguese adhesives. As far as can be judged from specimens examined, it is a mere change, unaccompanied by any improvement. As in all the previous emissions of this kingdom, the impression is in relief. Perforation as before. There are but two values yet out.

5 reis, black.	25 reis, pink.
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DENMARK.—On the 3d ultimo appeared, after the type of the 48 sk., figured last August, a 2 skilling, blue; 3 sk., violet; 8 sk.,

brown; and 16 sk., green; the central parts being gray in all the values.

VICTORIA.—The current blue sixpenny of this colony, on white paper, has made its appearance, erroneously watermarked, FOUR PENCE.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The last Australian mail brought a specimen of a stamp in use in these islands; it is oblong, printed black on white, inscribed, FIJI ISLANDS, POSTAGE SIXPENCE, similar to the letter-press stamps in use in the Sandwich Islands.—*Philatelist*.

### THE STAMP TRADE.

A week's visit to New York among the dealers in postage stamps has convinced us that this traffic is increasing rapidly. In one large establishment, we witnessed a pleasing sight. Seated at a long table were persons of every age, enthusiastically scanning the dealer's stock. Three persons were constantly engaged in assorting and counting the stamps, while a cashier behind a wire-protected desk was busy taking in the fractional currency. Albums of every kind and value lined the shelves; some particularly fine ones retailing for the modest sum of fifty dollars! In the show window front was a huge inverted cornucopia, from whose capacious mouth thousands of postage stamps were protruding. From the crowds entering and leaving this establishment, daily, we should suppose the business unusually profitable. Other dealers, in stores and at the street stands, were crowded with customers, and we left New York strongly and strangely impressed with the encouraging state of this new and infatuating trade, destined to take equal rank, at some day, with the more important branches of trade in this country.

### UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Continued.)

- C. Matches, rect., 1 cent, red.
- Dr. Crook's Wine of Tar, oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Collins Bros., St. Louis, Mo., oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Cramer & Kemp, Excelsior Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, blue.
- Chicago Match Co., rect., 3 cents, black.
- Dalley's Galvanic Horse Salve, oblong, 2 cents, green.
- Dalley's Magical Pain Extractor, oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Perry Davis & Son, rect., 1 cent, blue; 2 cents, red brown; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, brown.
- A. Dougherty, New York, rect., 2 cents, yellow; 4 cents, black; 5 cents, blue; 10 cents, blue.
- P. H. Drake & Co., New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Duponca's Golden Periodical Pills, New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.

(To be continued.)





### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700 ; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns ; old dates, . . . . .	75
French Medals ; bronze ; proof, . . . . .	75
Greek Silver Coins, . . . . .	75
“ Brass “ . . . . .	50
Roman Silver Coins, . . . . .	50
“ Brass “ . . . . .	15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round, . . . . .	1 75
“ Half Dollar, “ . . . . .	75
“ Quarter Dollar, octagon or round, . . . . .	50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, . . . . .	2 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, . . . . .	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### PROOF SETS FOR 1871.

Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive ; 10 pieces ; brilliant proofs ; per set, \$4 50.

Small Proof Sets—Five Cents, Three Cents, Two Cents and One Cent ; per set, 25 cents. Postage free.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different, . . . . .	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition, . . . . .	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### UNITED STATES PROOF SETS.

Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859, . . . . .	\$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860, . . . . .	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each, . . . . .	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870, . . . . .	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.


### PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows :

Priced Catalogue, . . . . .	\$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue, . . . . .	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for \$2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

 Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.